(b) According to information received from Govt. of Gujarat, that Government has not established any new Sub-centre in 1997-98.

(c) In Gujarat, 1233 Sub-centres are located in villages having SC population of 250 or more. These Centres constitute about 17% of total Sub-centres in the State. However, SC families located anywhere in the State are entitled to avail of health facilities through a Sub-centre or Primary Health Centre or Community Health Centre located in nearby village/ town.

Study on Indian Railways by Asian Development Bank

*159. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an Asian Development Bank commissioned study of the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to implement some of the recommendations during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Asian Development Bank (ADB) had funded a Rail Sector Technical Assistance Study for carrying out a Strength Weakness, Opportunity, Threat (SWOT) Analysis of the Indian Railways (IR) and to indicate the policy actions required by IR in order to form a long term vision incorporating the priorities Indian Railways need to address over the next fourteen years. M/s Mckinsey & Co. and Swede Rail were appointed as consultants for this study by the ADB. The consultants submitted their report to the ADB with a copy to IR. As a result of the findings of the study, a 5 years programme has been drawn up by the Indian Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Review of Recruitment Policy in Railways

*160. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways' recruitment policy has been reviewed; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to curtail unnecessary expenditure in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Review of the policies of recruitment is a continuous process. The recruitments to Group C & D posts on the Railways are made as per procedure laid down in relevant instructions, which essentially require that the vacancies should be notified and all eligible candidates applying against a notification should be considered. The recruitment to Group C posts is generally made through Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs).

While there has been no change in the policy stated above, the working of RRBs has been reviewed recently and a number of measures, have been taken to revamp the RRBs to restore their credibility.

The following important measures have been taken to revamp the same with the objective of restoring the credibility of RRBs and the confidence of the public at large and the candidates in particular in the fair and impartial functioning of these recruitment agencies:

(i) To constitute an apex body named Railway Recruitment control Board (RRCB) at Railway Board level with Member Staff, Railway Board

as Chairman, Additional Member (Staff) and Additional Member (Vigilance), Railway Board as Members and Executive Director, Establishment (RRB), Railway Board as Secretary, to issue policy guidelines and to oversee the functioning of Railway Recruitment Boards;

(ii) to terminate the services of all adhoc non-Railway Chairman and repatriate all serving Railway Officers in Selection/Junior Administrative Grades working on adhoc basis as Chairmen/RRBs;

(iii) to fill up the post of Chairmen/RRBs by serving Senior Administrative Grade Railway Officers from Zonal Railways except two posts of Chairmen of RRBs at Chandigarh and Jammu-Srinagar presently held by UPSC selected incumbents;

(iv) to replace incumbents of the posts of Members Secretary & Assistant Secretary with serving Railway Officers in appropriate grades and also to replace the group 'C' and 'D' staff of all the RRBs;

(v) to change the practice of associating non-official members belonging to SC/ST, Minority and OBC communities, in the Interview Committees and to revert back to the earlier practice of associating serving Railway Officers belonging to these communities, with the provision that in case of non-availability of serving Railway Officers of the respective communities, State/Central Govt./P.S.U./Bank Officers belonging to these communities and in case of further difficulty, retired Railway Officers of proven integrity belonging to these communities will be associated;

(vi) to introduce the system of duplicate carbonless Answer sheets, the duplicate answer sheets being sent to the RRCB for independent evaluation, as considered necessary; and

(vii) to set up a grievances redressal machinery to deal systematically with various complaints and representations regarding the functioning of the RRBs' and selections conducted by them.

(b) Railways, *inter-alia*, have been taking the following steps to ensure control of expenditure:—

(i) Austerity in areas of hospitality, publicity, advertisements etc.

(ii) Better manpower management for improving per capita productivity.

(iii) Energy conservation.

(iv) Efficient utilisation of assets.

(v) Reduction in equipment failure and accidents.

(vi) Stringent financial and budgetary control through the mechanism of fixation of spending limits and monthly budget proportions.

(vii) Cost control, cost reduction and cost effectiveness in all on-line and off-line activities.

(viii) Zero base review of activities.

(ix) Curbing of ticket-less travels.